

REMARKS

The last Office Action of September 23, 2008 has been carefully considered. Reconsideration of the instant application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-21 are pending in the application. Claims 1-6, 14 have been withdrawn from further consideration. Claims 1-10, 14-18 have been canceled. No claims have been amended or added. A total of 6 claims is now on file. The abstract has been amended. No fee is due.

It is noted that the abstract is objected to because of an informality. Applicant has amended the abstract to address the objection. Withdrawal of the objection to the abstract is thus respectfully requested.

It is further noted that claims 7-10, 15-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 7-10, 15-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over German reference DE 196 19 867 in view of Japanese reference 09037413.

Claim 16 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over German reference DE 196 19 867 in view of Japanese reference 09037413 and further in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,370,059 to Raschbichler and U.S. Pat. No. 3,967,561 to Schwarzer.


It is noted with appreciation that claims 11-13, 19-21 are allowed.

For the purpose of expediting the patent application process in a manner consistent with the PRO's Patent Business Goals (PBG), 65 Fed. Reg. 54603 (September 8, 2000), applicant has canceled claims 1-6, 7-10, 14-18 without prejudice from the present application to permit earliest issuance of the allowed claims 11-13, 19-21. Applicant reserves the right to include and pursue said cancelled claims 1-10, 14-18 in a continuing application filed at a later date.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate conditions for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

Should the Examiner consider necessary or desirable any formal changes anywhere in the specification, claims and/or drawing, then it is respectfully requested that such changes be made by Examiner's Amendment, if the Examiner feels this would facilitate passage of the case to issuance. If the Examiner feels that it might be helpful in advancing this case by calling the undersigned, applicant would greatly appreciate such a telephone interview.

Respectfully submitted,

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